

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 18, 2015 AT 6:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Barna called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Barna led the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

3. ROLL CALL & CERTIFICATION OF A QUORUM

Susie Quinn, City Secretary, certified a quorum with the following Councilmembers present:

Mayor Eric Barna
Mayor Pro Tem Scott Bradley
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Owais Siddiqui
Councilmember Betty Nichols Spraggins
Councilmember Sarah Fincanon
Councilmember Rob Thomas

Absent:

Councilmember Ben St. Clair

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ray Shahan, resident, is still requesting a full investigation on PD3-10-590 regarding the zoning/rezoning of the Ranch subdivision. Shahan presented to Council his written comments with a letter from D R Horton and an advertising flyer from D R Horton.

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. Presentation of a Proclamation for Dorie Miller to receive the Medal of Honor posthumously.

Joe Madu, father of Jennifer Madu, was present to accept the Proclamation for Dorie Miller to receive the Medal of Honor posthumously. Mr. Madu expressed his gratitude to the City of Murphy for the proclamation.

B. Presentation of financial report and investment report as of July 31, 2015.

Finance Director Linda Truitt presented the financial and investment report for July 31, 2015. The funds are decreasing as the year comes to an end. Interest earnings remain at .14% for July. Sales tax receipts are right on target, this includes the mixed beverage tax. Permits and licenses are still behind last year. The expenditures are on target with a few overages, Human Resources – wage compensation study; City Council – legal fees, primarily open record requests requiring attorney input; Animal Control – completion of animal shelter in FY 2015. The Utility Fund revenues have increased due to no rain, so more people are watering. Utility revenues and expenditures are below the projected target at this time. Questions were asked and answered about the general fund meeting its target for revenues and expenditures by budget year end.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

All consent agenda items are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Councilmember so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately.

- A. Consider and/or act upon the August 4, 2015 regular meeting minutes.

COUNCIL ACTION (6.A.):

APPROVED

Mayor Pro Tem Bradley moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Siddiqui seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

7. INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

- A. Hold a public hearing on the proposed 2015 Tax Rate of \$0.5300 per \$100 valuation.

City Manager Fisher explained the current tax rate for 2015 is \$.5500 per \$100 valuation and the proposed tax rate for 2016 is \$.5300 per \$100 valuation. The home property values have increased for the year. The tax breakdown of the \$.5500 per \$100 valuation is \$.3320 funds for operating the City and \$.1968 for debt service from various bond issues. The next public hearing will be on Tuesday, September 1, 2015.

Mayor Barna opened the public hearing at 6:21 pm. No one made any comments. The public hearing closed at 6:21 pm. The next public hearing will be September 1, 2015 and the vote for the proposed tax rate will be held on September 15, 2015 at 6:00 pm at the City Council Chambers at City Hall at 206 N. Murphy Road at Murphy, Texas 75064.

- B. Hold a public hearing on the proposed FY 2015-2016 Budget.

City Manager Fisher explained the budget totals \$13,312,800 in revenues and expenditures of \$13,769,000 with the difference coming from reserves. The information is available on the city's website.

Mayor Barna opened the public hearing at 6:30 pm. No one made any comments. The public hearing closed at 6:30 pm. The next public hearing will be September 1, 2015 and the vote for the proposed tax rate will be held on September 15, 2015 at 6:00 pm at the City Council Chambers at City Hall at 206 N. Murphy Road at Murphy, Texas 75064.

- C. Consider and/or act on the City of Murphy Compensation Study for city employees conducted by CPS HR Consulting.

City Manager Fisher explained to Council about the cities that cooperated with the study. A work session to discuss the study is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2015. The representative from CPS HR Consulting gave an overview summary to include short term and

long term goals; classifications were discussed and the fact that some jobs do not identify with a comparable positions in some of the cities were recognized; compensations structures were discussed and the median number as the most stable representative of the comparative salaries. CPS developed a salary range structure with five step increments and developed how the employees should be placed in the ranges. Tenure was discussed. Different strategies were discussed on how to place employees and the various costs involved. The city overall is below all the compared agencies. Options and strategies on implementing the plan were discussed.

Council asked questions about retention, benefits, and span of control. The raw data is to be provided in an excel format. Performance evaluations were discussed.

COUNCIL ACTION (7.C.):

NO ACTION TAKEN

- D. Consider and/or act on the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Murphy, Texas and the Texoma Area Paratransit System, Inc. for the use of parking spaces and authorize the City Manager to execute the Agreement.

City Manager James Fisher explained that Texoma Area Paratransit System, Inc. (TAPS) requested the parking spaces and since we have ample, the city recommends accommodating TAPS with their request. Council asked about the usage of TAPS by Murphy residents. A report will be requested showing ridership as TAPS is approaching the first year anniversary with the City.

COUNCIL ACTION (7.D.):

APPROVED

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Siddiqui moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Murphy, Texas and the Texoma Area Paratransit System, Inc. for the use of parking spaces and authorize the City Manager to execute the Agreement. Councilmember Fincanon seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

- E. Consider and/or act on a Spring Craft Beer Fest and Community Concert.

City Manager Fisher stated the Spring event was postponed for 2015. Parks and Recreation has been working with groups to find a different approach for a new type of self-sustaining event. The vendor contract was discussed. Sponsorships and costs of this type of events were discussed. Negotiation with the proposed vendor was recommended. Public Services Director Bernie Parker explained the various costs, the proposed site, food trucks, concert venues, hours of operation and children activities. TABC rules regarding charity contributions were explained. The costs of events are paid by sales tax dollars through the Community Development Corporation.

Council asked several questions regarding the success of the event and the liability of the City for the event. Consensus was reached to continue negotiations, looking for sponsors and move forward to make the event self-sustaining by year two.

COUNCIL ACTION (7.E.):

NO ACTION TAKEN

F. Discuss update on Southeast study.

City Manager Fisher explained the first stakeholders meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 19, 2015. An overview is to be explained and then people will be divided into groups to provide input. All boards can attend as the notice was published that quorums of various groups may be present. This is first step in the process of creating the comp plan for the Southeast area of Murphy.

Mark Hanson, resident, explained that he resides on the outskirts of the area and he is concerned that his neighbors will be impacted and they were not included to receive the flyer that he received. City Manager Fisher explained that the stakeholders (property owners) in the area are asked to give their input first as they have the largest investment in the process. It is a public meeting. Following the process, results will be presented to Planning and Zoning and Council for approval, so this is just the beginning phase of the Southeast study. Mr. Hanson reminded Council that the neighborhood does not have sidewalks and lots of children play in the area.

G. Discuss update on Community Survey project.

City Manager Fisher thanked Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Siddiqui for working with staff on the Community Survey. The survey is long even after the suggested modifications. Mayor Barna, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Siddiqui, City Manager Fisher and Director of Community and Economic Development Kristen Roberts will meet on Friday to finalize the survey. Consensus was reached by Council for the project to move forward following that meeting.

8. CITY MANAGER/STAFF REPORTS

A. Timbers Nature Preserve

Several calls have been received regarding how the park is looking. It is still under construction and is a bit behind but it will be a beautiful park when completed. Various issues are being resolved.

B. Betsy Lane Road Widening Project

Moving forward and we are trying to change the flashing signal to be operational when school starts. A request has been made to open the south side of the east bound lane on Betsy Lane at the intersection to be opened back up as a right turn only lane.

C. South Maxwell Creek Parallel Trunk Sewer Line

This project is on time and moving forward.

D. North Murphy Road

The city is pushing for Safe Routes to School contractors to complete the crosswalks by this weekend with the majority of the road opened up by Monday, August 24, 2015 at 7:00 am for the first school day. Crossing guards will be in place to assist with traffic control on North Murphy Road.

City Manager Fisher also explained that the "Drug Take Back" has been scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2015 from 10 am until 2 pm. It is a very successful program for the residents.

9. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

APPROVED BY:



Eric Barna, Mayor

ATTEST:



Susie Quinn, City Secretary

